

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for handling a failed disk drive in a redundancy group of disk drives in an array of disk drives, the failed disk drive located in a failed disk drive slot, comprising:  
creating a mirrored subsystem within the array including a temporary disk drive and the failed disk drive slot.
  2. A method as in claim 1, further comprising:  
inserting a replacement disk drive in the failed disk drive slot;  
copying data from the temporary disk drive to the replacement disk drive; and  
replacing the mirrored subsystem with the replacement disk drive after the data on the replacement disk drive matches the data on the temporary disk drive.
  3. A method as in claim 1, further comprising:  
reconstructing each data block of the failed disk drive; and  
writing each reconstructed data block to the mirrored subsystem.
  4. A method as in claim 2, wherein the redundancy group is a RAID-5 array.
  5. A method as in claim 2, wherein the redundancy group is a RAID-3 array.
  6. A method as in claim 2, wherein the redundancy group is a RAID-1/0 array.
  7. A method as in claim 2, wherein the redundancy group is a RAID-1 array.
  8. A method as in claim 3, wherein the redundancy group is a RAID-5 array.
  9. A method as in claim 3, wherein the redundancy group is a RAID-3 array.
  10. A method as in claim 3, wherein the redundancy group is a RAID-1/0 array.
  11. A method as in claim 3, wherein the redundancy group is a RAID-1 array.

12. A method as in claim 2, wherein the mirrored subsystem is a RAID-1 array.
13. A method as in claim 3, wherein the mirrored subsystem is a RAID-1 array.
14. A method as in claim 3, further comprising:  
inserting a replacement disk drive in the failed disk drive slot;  
copying data from the temporary disk drive to the replacement disk drive; and  
replacing the mirrored subsystem with the replacement disk drive after the data on the replacement disk drive matches the data on the temporary disk drive.
15. The method of claim 1 further comprising substituting the mirrored subsystem into the redundancy group for the failed disk drive.
16. A computer program product for use on a computer system for handling a failed disk drive in a redundancy group of disk drives in an array of disk drives, the failed disk drive located in a failed disk drive slot, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, the computer readable program code including program code for:  
creating a mirrored subsystem within the array using a temporary disk drive and the failed disk drive slot;  
reconstructing each data block of the failed disk drive in the redundancy group; and  
writing each reconstructed data block to the mirrored subsystem.
17. A computer program product as in claim 16, further including program code for:  
copying data from the temporary disk drive to a replacement disk drive in the failed disk drive slot; and  
replacing the mirrored subsystem with the replacement disk drive after the data on the replacement disk drive matches the data on the temporary disk drive.

18. A disk drive array system comprising:  
a redundancy group comprising at least two disk drives and associated disk drive slots;  
a temporary disk drive with an associated temporary disk drive slot;  
logic that detects a failure of one of the disk drives in the redundancy group;  
logic that reconfigures the redundancy group to comprise the disk drives in the redundancy group that have not failed and a second storage array, the second storage array operating as a mirrored subsystem comprising the temporary disk drive and the disk drive slot associated with the failed disk drive; and  
logic that reconstructs the data blocks on the failed drive to the mirrored subsystem.
19. A disk drive array system as in claim 18, further including:  
logic that restores the redundancy group to its initial configuration, the replacement disk drive replacing the failed disk drive, after the temporary disk drive and a replacement drive inserted in the disk drive slot associated with the failed disk drive contain the same data.